ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

. . . .

5

Methods and devices are provided for maintaining configuration synchronization when an Active unit and a Standby unit have different versions of a software image. Preferred implementations allow the system to operate in a stateful mode even after the Standby unit has had an image upgrade. Other implementations allow the system to operate in a stateful mode when the Active unit has a higher-level version of the image than the Standby unit.